



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Saudi Arabia

FAIRS Product Specific

Saudi Missions Notarization Requirement for Some Commercial Documents Dropped

2006

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Report Highlights:

On March 29, 2006, the Saudi Arabia Customs Authority dropped the requirement that a Saudi Embassy or Consulate notarize commercial invoice and country of origin certificates.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Riyadh [SA2]
[SA]

On March 29, 2006, the Saudi Arabia Customs Authority issued a memorandum to local chambers of commerce and industry informing them of the Saudi government's decision to drop a requirement that a Saudi embassy or consulate notarize commercial invoices and country of origin certificates issued by exporting companies to clear shipments on arrival at Saudi ports. Saudi Customs will accept the original commercial invoice and country of origin certificate attested by a local chamber of commerce and industry located in a city or area where the foodstuffs are purchased and shipped. This measure is expected to save time and money for U.S. foodstuffs exporters to Saudi Arabia.

Under the old system, the two documents were required initial authentication either by the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, any U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce, the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council, or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce located in the city or area where the exporting firm is based. The documents were then forwarded to a Saudi embassy or consulate in the U.S. for a second and final attestation.

Depending on the types of agricultural products exported, Customs still requires a Saudi mission notarization for other certificates such as health, phytosanitary, halal, and radiation. For more information on export documentation, please refer to post's GAIN Report number SA5015 issued on 12/27/2005. The report lists and describes certificates that should accompany all food and agricultural products imports to Saudi Arabia. It focuses on the types of export certificates required for each imported product, the purpose of each certificate, what the certificate must say, and which government agency is requiring a particular certificate.